

PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION SHEET

SARS GLOSSARY OF TERMS

AIRBORNE INFECTION ISOLATION

The use of specific administrative, engineering, and work practices to reduce the spread of infectious diseases through the air. Work practices include the use of an Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR), which has negative pressure relative to the surrounding area.

CASE (SARS, CONFIRMED)

A person who has a clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed.

CASE (SARS, PROBABLE)

A person who meets both the clinical criteria for severe respiratory illness and the epidemiological criteria for likely exposure to SARS-CoV.

CLOSE CONTACT (SARS)

A person who has lived with or cared for someone with SARS-CoV, or had direct contact with the droplets (respiratory secretions) or body fluids of a person with SARS-CoV. Close contact does not include sitting across a waiting room or office for a short period of time.

COHORTING

The isolation of groups of patients with the same infectious disease. Cohorting is used as a means of reducing the spread of a disease when space limitations prevent patients from being isolated individually.

CONTACT (SARS)

A person who has been exposed to a SARS case during the infectious period.

CONTACT PRECAUTIONS

The use of specific work practices and personal protective equipment to control the spread of infection through direct or indirect contact with an infected person. Direct contact means any physical contact between an infected and non-infected person. Indirect contact means any contact between a non-infected person and any object that has been infected through contact with an infected person.

DROPLET PRECAUTIONS

The use of specific work practices to reduce the spread of infectious diseases by droplets (respiratory secretions).

HAND HYGIENE

A general term that applies to hand washing, antiseptic hand wash, antiseptic hand rub, or surgical hand antiseptic.

INFECTION CONTROL

The use of hand hygiene, personal protective equipment, and specific work practices undertaken by healthcare workers in healthcare centers to reduce the spread of infectious diseases. The infection control actions taken depend on the way a disease is spread and can include Standard, Contact, Droplet, and/or Airborne precautions.

ISOLATION

The separation of people who are ill with a specific contagious disease to stop the spread of disease. Isolation can be voluntary or mandatory, applied to people or groups, and take place in homes, hospitals, or community isolation centers.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

A range of gear including gloves, disposable gowns, eye protection, and appropriate respirators and masks worn by healthcare workers to protect themselves and others from, and to reduce the spread of contagious diseases.

QUARANTINE

The separation of people who are well but are believed to have been exposed to a contagious disease to stop the disease's spread. Quarantine can be voluntary or mandatory, applied to people or groups, and take place in homes, hospitals, or community isolation centers. Quarantine can also mean the restriction of movement into and out of a building or place such as a hospital.

RESPIRATORY HYGIENE

The use of surgical masks (or tissues when masks are not available to cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing), hand hygiene procedures, and physical distancing of persons with respiratory symptoms to reduce the spread of SARS and other respiratory diseases.

SARS

A severe respiratory illness caused by a coronavirus (SARS-CoV) and characterized by a variety of signs and symptoms including: fever; chills and rigors; headache, malaise, and myalgias; shortness of breath; cough or other lower respiratory tract symptoms; and in some cases progressive pneumonia and adult respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

The use of specific work practices to prevent infections; including protective barriers, hand hygiene, and appropriate handling of clinical waste.

